



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,224	01/31/2005	Rolf Huss	232346	8055
23460 7590 12/21/2006 LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD TWO PRUDENTIAL PLAZA, SUITE 4900 180 NORTH STETSON AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60601-6731			EXAMINER DONDERO, WILLIAM E	
			ART UNIT 3654	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		12/21/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,224

Applicant(s)

HUSS ET AL.

Examiner

William E. Dondero

Art Unit

3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-29, 31 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/31/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 67. The drawings are objected to because in Figure 3, the boxes without references character labels should be labeled appropriately. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 3654

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claim 24, the recitation "from to" in line 2 renders the claim indefinite, because it is unclear what is meant by this recitation. Furthermore, removing the recitation makes the claim further indefinite. It is unclear whether Applicant is claiming weighting the plurality of detected yarn speeds or yarn quantities to calculate the average.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 17-18 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barea (EP-0489307). Regarding Claim 17, Barea discloses a method of operating yarn feeders for feeding yarn to a textile machine, comprising in a trial phase, operating the yarn feeders 3 in a tension regulated mode; detecting yarn feeding parameters of the yarn feeders operated in the tension-regulated mode, the determined parameters being of a type selected from yarn speed or yarn quantity fed; determining, from the detected yarn feeding parameters detected during the trial phase, an operational yarn feeding parameter of the selected type; and in an operating phase,

operating the yarn feeders according to the operational feeding parameter (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Regarding Claim 18, Barea discloses the step of operating in the trial phase operates the yarn feeders in accordance with matching set-point tensions (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Regarding Claim 21, Barea discloses the yarn feeders includes a group of yarn feeders, and wherein the step of determining determines the operational yarn feeding parameter based on the detected yarn feeding parameter of all the yarn feeders in the group (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Regarding Claim 22, Barea discloses the textile machine is a loop-forming machine, and wherein the operational yarn feeding parameter is set in proportion to a machine speed of the loop-forming machine (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Regarding Claim 23, Barea discloses the step of determining calculates the operational yarn feeding parameter as an average of a plurality of the detected yarn feeding parameters (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Regarding Claim 24, Barea discloses the step of determining includes weighting the plurality of detected yarn speeds or yarn quantities to form said average (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Regarding Claim 25, Barea discloses generating an error signal if in the trial phase the detected yarn feeding parameters differ by more than a specified limit (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Regarding Claim 26, Barea discloses detecting yarn tensions of the yarn feeders during the operating phase, and generating an error signal if the detected yarn tensions differ by more than a specified limit (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 19-20 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barea (EP-0489307). Regarding Claims 19 and 27, Barea discloses a method of operating yarn feeders for feeding yarns to a textile machine as advanced above in regards to Claims 17-18 and 21-26 wherein in the step of detecting includes generating signals of the detected yarn feeding parameters and delivering the signals over a signal line and the operational yarn feeding parameter being sent as a control signal to be stored in the memories 9 of the yarn feeders (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Barea is silent about a central control unit. However, central control units for a plurality of yarn feeding devices are notoriously old and well-known. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add a central control unit to the system of Barea to allow settings common to all the yarn feeders for calculating the average of the operational yarn feeding parameter easily be input at one location. Regarding Claim 20 and 28, Barea discloses the signals are digital signals (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5).

Claims 29 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barea (EP-0489307) in view of Memminger et al. (US-4953367). Barea discloses a yarn feeding system for feeding a plurality of yarns to a textile machine, a loop forming

Art Unit: 3654

machine 1, comprising a plurality of yarn feeders that form an operational group, each of selected yarn feeders in the operational group having a yarn tension sensor 31, a drive motor (motor for 35) with a yarn feed wheel 35, and a yarn speed regulator 35. Further Barea discloses a control 6 for each yarn feeder configured to receive, during a trial phase, first signal indicative of detected yarn feeding parameters of a type selected from yarn speed and yarn quantity and an arithmetic unit for calculating an operational feeding parameter of the selected type for controlling the operation of the yarn feeders during an operational phase (Figure 1, Column 3, Line 39 – Column 7, Line 5). Barea is silent about a yarn tension regulator and a central control including an arithmetic unit. However, Memminger et al. disclose a yarn feeding system with a tension regulator 14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the tension regulator of Memminger et al. to the yarn feeding system of Barea to regulate the tension during the trial phase producing a first quality product. Further, central control units for a group of yarn feeding devices with calculations functionalities are notoriously old and well known. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add a central control unit with an arithmetic unit, with an input for receiving a signal indicative of the loop-forming machine operating speed, and configured to receive detected yarn feeding parameters for each feeder controller and to send a control signal back to each feeder controller with the operational yarn feeding parameter to the system of Barea to allow settings common to all the yarn feeders for calculating the average of the operational

yarn feeding parameter, including the machine operating speed, easily be input at one location.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 30 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William E. Dondero whose telephone number is 571-272-5590. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on 571-272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

wed



PATRICK MACKEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600